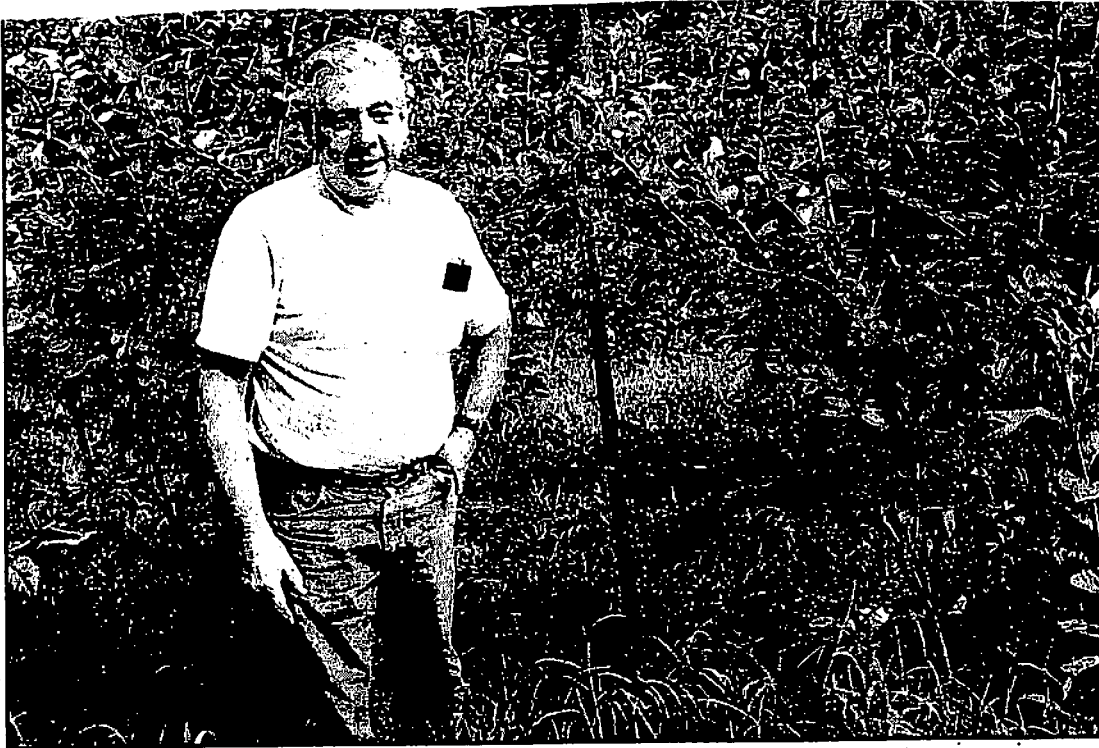


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Don Martinez shot a fox that attacked him on his property on Old Cordwood Path. *photo by Mark Cabana*

## Fox Attack on Old Cordwood Path

By MARK CABANA

Don Martinez was checking up on one of the blueberry patches on his Old Cordwood Path property a few weeks ago when an angry fox rushed out from some bramble and tried to attack him.

"It jumped out of nowhere and tried to bite me," Martinez said of the female fox. Fortunately, when the fox growled and charged at Martinez its teeth got caught on one of the bird deterring metal plates that

hung from a blueberry bush and allowed him to move away from the fox.

"The fox was only caught for a few seconds before it freed itself, but, luckily, the delay allowed me enough time to get back to my pickup truck that was parked a few feet away," Martinez said. "When I made it to my truck I saw that the fox had freed itself and I knew I could either get in the truck bed and hope the fox chose to go away, or try to fight the fox off."

Martinez chose the latter option and pulled a broken shovel out of the back of his truck. When the fox again showed its teeth and lunged toward him, Martinez swung the shovel and knocked the fox on the ground. It took a few more swings before he was convinced that the fox was unconscious.

After Martinez had calmed down, he drove his truck back

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to his house and told his brother-in-law what had happened. Both men then rode back to the blueberry patch to check on the status of the fox.

"I thought that I had knocked the fox out," Martinez said, "but when we returned to the patch the fox was slowly moving around and whimpering."

Martinez feared that the fox's aggression and abnormal behavior were due to a rabid sickness. Taking no chances, both Martinez and his brother-in-law agreed that the possibly sick fox should be killed.

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After killing the fox, Martinez called the Animal Control Officer who removed the animal and told the Martinez that tests would be done on the animal to determine if the fox was sick or not.

"I often see foxes on my property and I'm pretty sure that the fox was sick because it was slower than most foxes I've seen," Martinez said. "If it had been 100%, I'm sure it would have bit me."

The Animal Control Office had no comment on the status of the fox.